

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 10-11 and 34-37 are currently pending in the application.

By this Amendment, claim 10 has been amended. No new matter is believed to have been added by this Amendment. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 10-11 and 34-37 would still be pending.

II. Claim Rejections Under U.S.C. § 103

Claims 10, 11 and 34-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (US 6,337,713) in view of Kinoshita et al. (US 5,726,709).

Claim 10, as amended, is directed to an image sensing apparatus which includes: (1) a single solid-state image sensing element having matrix-like arranged first to fourth image sensing areas with substantially the same size, all of the first to fourth image sensing areas being arranged on a single plane, green color filters being arranged on the first and fourth image sensing areas which are arrayed on one diagonal line of the matrix, and red and blue color filters being arranged on the second and third image sensing areas which are arrayed on the other diagonal line of the matrix; (2) a photographing optical system that respectively forms first to fourth object images on the first to fourth image sensing areas; and (3) a signal processing device that processes an output signal from the image sensing element.

Each of the first and-fourth image sensing areas has a matrix of a plurality of pixels arranged at a pitch a in the horizontal direction and a pitch b in the vertical direction on a light-receiving surface. The first and fourth image sensing areas have a positional relationship in which the first and fourth image sensing areas are separated $a \times h \times c$ in the horizontal direction and

$b \times c$ in the vertical direction (where h is a positive integer and c is constant). The image sensing element forms first and fourth images which are formed to have an identical spectral distribution and have substantially the same fields of view. The signal processing device corrects a misregistration of the first and fourth images based on a relationship of the pixels arrayed in a slanting direction, and generates a composite image signal based on the first and fourth images.

The Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10, as amended, is believed to be distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in combination.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4782.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4782.

Respectfully submitted,
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